

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method for voting by telephone utilizing multiple layers of security, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a telephone call from a caller;

5 (b) receiving an identification number entered by the caller;

(c) comparing the entered identification number to a plurality of stored identification numbers;

(d) comparing a telephone number from which the call originates, that is a caller telephone number, to a stored telephone number; and

10 (e) recording a vote entered by the caller if the entered identification number matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers in step (c), the caller telephone number matches the stored telephone number in step (d) and the entered identification number and the stored telephone number are associated.

15 2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

updating voter identification information associated with the entered identification number after the vote is recorded such that a subsequent caller entering the same identification number received in step (b) is prevented from voting.

20 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of stored identification numbers and associated voter identification information are retrieved from a first storage device.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving the caller telephone number from a caller identification system.

5           5. The method of claim 1, wherein the caller employs one of voice, touch tone  
and a handicap accessible device to record a vote.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

(f) receiving a second identification number entered by the caller;

10           (g) retrieving a second stored identification number associated with the  
entered second identification number; and

15           (h) comparing the entered second identification number to the second stored  
identification number, wherein the vote of the caller is recorded if the entered  
identification number received in step (b) matches one of the plurality of stored  
identification numbers in step (c), the entered second identification number matches  
the second stored identification number in step (h), the caller telephone number  
matches the stored telephone number in step (d) and the entered identification  
number, the second stored identification number and the stored telephone number are  
associated.

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7. The method according to claim 1, wherein if the entered identification  
number received in step (b) does not match one of the plurality of stored identification

numbers, the caller is requested to re-enter the identification number.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein if the entered second identification number received in step (f) does not match the second stored identification number, the caller is requested to re-enter the second identification number.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising  
receiving a caller voice sample from the caller;  
comparing the caller voice sample of the caller to a stored voice sample,  
wherein the vote of the caller is recorded if the entered identification number received in step (b) matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers in step (c), the caller telephone number matches the stored telephone number in step (d), the caller voice sample matches the stored voice sample and the entered identification number, the stored telephone number and the stored voice sample are associated.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising:  
receiving a caller voice sample from a caller;  
comparing the caller voice sample of the caller to a stored voice sample,  
wherein the vote of the caller is recorded if the entered identification number received in step (b) matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers in step (c), the entered second identification number received in step (f) matches the second stored identification number in step (h), the caller telephone number matches the stored

telephone number in step (d), the caller voice sample matches the stored voice sample and the entered identification number, the stored telephone number, the second identification number and the stored voice sample are associated.

5           11. The method of claim 1 wherein receiving an incoming telephone call comprises:

receiving an incoming call from a caller modem connected to a caller computer.

10           12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step of receiving an incoming call from a caller modem comprises:

decoding a voice signal from the caller modem entered by the caller using a microphone connected to the caller computer.

15           13. The method of claim 1, wherein the voted the caller is recorded anonymously such that no identity is associated with the vote.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the vote of the caller is repeated and the caller confirms the vote.

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15. A system for voting by telephone utilizing multiple security devices, the system comprising:

a call receiving device adapted to receive an incoming telephone call from a caller;

an identification number receiving device adapted to receive an identification number entered by the caller;

5           an identification number comparing device adapted to compare the entered identification number to a plurality of stored identification numbers;

a telephone number comparing device adapted to compare a caller telephone number from which the call originates with a stored telephone number; and

10           a voting device adapted to record a vote of the caller if the entered identification number matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, the caller telephone number matches the stored telephone number and the identification number and the stored telephone number are associated.

16. The system of claim 15, further comprising:

15           a voter identification updating device adapted to update voter identification information after the vote of the caller is recorded by the voting device such that a subsequent caller entering the voter information associated with the caller is prevented from voting.

20           17. The system of claim 15, wherein the identification number comparing device further comprises:

a storage device adapted to store the plurality of stored identification numbers

and associated voter identification information.

18. The system of claim 15, wherein the caller identification device comprises:

5 a caller identification system of a public telephone company to which the telephone voting system is connected.

19. The system of claim 15, wherein the voting device comprises:

a speech recognition device adapted to interpret a voice entry of the caller.

20. The system of claim 15, wherein the voting device comprises:

a touch tone signal interpreting device adapted to interpret a touch tone signal input by the caller.

21. The system of claim 15, wherein the first security device further

comprises:

a second identification number device adapted to receive a second identification number entered by the caller; and

a second identification number matching device adapted to match the entered second identification number with a second stored identification number; wherein the voting device records the vote of the caller if the entered identification number matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, the second identification

number matches the second stored identification number, the caller telephone number matches the stored telephone number and the entered identification number, the second identification number and the stored telephone number are associated.

5           22. The system of claim 15, wherein  
if the entered identification number does not match one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, the caller is requested to re-enter the identification number.

10           23. The system of claim 21, wherein  
if the entered second identification number does not match the second stored identification number, the caller is requested to re-enter the second identification number.

15           24. The system of claim 15 further comprising:  
a voice sample receiving device adapted to receive a caller voice sample from the caller;  
a voice sample comparing device adapted to compare the caller voice sample to a stored voice sample; wherein the voting device records the vote of the caller if the  
20 entered identification number matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, the caller telephone number matches the stored telephone number, the caller voice sample matches the stored voice sample and the identification number, the

stored telephone number and the stored voice sample are associated.

25. The system of claim 21, further comprising:

5 a voice sample comparing device adapted to compare a caller voice sample  
from the caller to a stored voice sample; wherein the voting device records the vote of  
the caller if the entered identification number matches one of the plurality of stored  
identification numbers, the entered second identification number matches the second  
10 stored identification number, the caller telephone number matches the stored  
telephone number, the caller voice sample matches the stored voice sample and the  
entered identification number, the second stored identification number, the stored  
telephone number and the stored voice sample are associated.

26. The system according to claim 15, wherein the call receiving device  
comprises:

15 a system modem adapted to receive a telephone call from a caller modem  
connected to a caller computer.

27. The system according to claim 25, wherein the call receiving device  
comprises

20 a decoding device adapted to decode a voice signal from the caller modem  
input by the caller using a microphone connected to the caller computer.



28. The system of claim 15, wherein the voting device records the vote of the voter anonymously such that no identity is associated with the vote.

5 29. The system of claim 15, wherein the voting device repeats the vote to the caller and the caller confirms the vote.

30. A method of voting by telephone utilizing multiple layers of security comprising:

receiving a telephone call from a caller;

10 comparing an entered identification number from the caller to a plurality of stored identification numbers;

performing at least one of :

comparing an entered second identification number to a plurality of stored second identification numbers;

15 comparing a caller telephone number to a plurality of stored telephone numbers;

comparing a voice sample entered by the caller to a plurality of stored voice samples; and

20 recording a vote of the caller after (1) the entered identification number is matched to one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, (2) at least one of the entered second identification number is matched to one of the stored second identification numbers, the caller telephone number is matched to one of the stored

telephone numbers and the voice sample is matched to one of the plurality of stored voice sample and (3) the entered identification number is associated with at least one of the one stored second identification number, the one stored telephone number and the one stored voice sample.

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31. A system of voting by telephone utilizing multiple security levels, comprising:

a call receiving device adapted to receive a telephone call from a caller;

an identification number comparing device adapted to compare an entered identification number entered by the caller with a plurality of stored identification numbers;

one of:

a second identification number comparing device adapted to compare an entered second identification number entered by the caller to a plurality of stored second identification numbers;

a caller telephone number comparing device adapted to compare a caller telephone number to a plurality of stored telephone numbers;

a voice sample comparing device adapted to compare a voice sample provided by the caller to a plurality of stored voice samples; and

a voting device adapted to record a vote of the caller after (1) the entered identification number is matched to one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, (2) at least one of the entered second identification number is matched to

one of the plurality of stored second identification numbers, the caller telephone number matches one of the plurality of stored telephone numbers and the voice sample matches one of the plurality of stored telephone numbers and (3) the entered identification number is associated with at least one of the one stored second identification number, the one stored telephone number and the one stored voice sample.

32. A closed telephone voting system utilizing multiple security levels, the closed telephone voting system comprising:

a input device adapted to allow a caller to input information;

at least one of:

an identification number comparing device adapted to compare an entered identification number entered by the caller to a plurality of stored identification numbers;

a second identification number comparing device adapted to compare an entered second identification number to a plurality of stored second identification numbers;

a voice sample comparing device adapted compare a voice sample provided by the caller to a plurality of stored voice samples; and

a voting device adapted to record a vote of the caller after at least one of (1) the entered identification number is matched to one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, (2) the entered second identification number is matched to one

of the plurality of stored identification numbers and (3) the voice sample is matched to one of the plurality of stored voice samples.

33. A telephone voting system utilizing multiple security levels comprising:

5 a telephone call receiving device adapted to receive a telephone call of a caller;

at least one of:

an identification number comparing device adapted to compare an entered  
10 identification number entered by the caller to a plurality of stored identification numbers;

a second identification number comparing device adapted to compare an  
entered second identification number to a plurality of stored second identification  
numbers;

15 a caller telephone number comparing device adapted to compare a caller telephone number to a plurality of stored telephone numbers;

a voice sample comparing device adapted compare a voice sample provided  
by the caller to a plurality of stored voice samples; and

a voting device adapted to record a vote of the caller after at least one of (1)  
the entered identification number is matched to one of the plurality of stored  
20 identification numbers, (2) the entered second identification number is matched to one of the plurality of stored identification numbers, (3) the caller telephone number is matched to one of the plurality of stored telephone numbers and (4) the voice sample

is matched to one of the plurality of stored voice samples.

34. A program storage medium, readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for voting by telephone using multiple security levels, the method steps comprising:

- (a) receiving a telephone call from a caller;
- (b) receiving an identification number entered by the caller;
- (c) comparing the entered identification number to a plurality of stored identification numbers;
- (d) comparing a telephone number from which the call originates, that is a caller telephone number, to a stored telephone number; and
- (e) recording a vote entered by the caller if the entered identification number matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers in step (c), the caller telephone number matches the stored telephone number in step (d) and the entered identification number and the stored telephone number are associated.

35. A computer system comprising:

a processor;

a program storage device readable by the computer system, embodying a program of instructions executable by the processor to perform method steps for voting by telephone, the method steps comprising:

- (a) receiving a telephone call from a caller;

(b) receiving an identification number entered by the caller;

(c) comparing the entered identification number to a plurality of stored  
identification numbers;

5 (d) comparing the telephone number from which the call originates, that is a  
caller telephone number to a stored telephone number; and

(e) recording a vote entered by the caller if the entered identification number  
matches one of the plurality of stored identification numbers in step (c), the caller  
telephone number matches the stored telephone number in step (d) and the entered  
identification number and the stored telephone number are associated.

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